





**Bishop Louis Henry Ford**

Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle  
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

1914 – 1995

*“No man stood so tall... As when he stooped to help a child and humanity.”*



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF THE HISTORY OF ARTS

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**National Memorial Service**  
for  
**The Bishop Louis Henry Ford**  
Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle  
of the  
Church Of God In Christ, Incorporated

Wednesday, the fifth day of April  
Nineteen Hundred, Ninety-five  
Anno Domini

Eleven O'Clock in the Morning

Mason Temple Church Of God In Christ  
930 Mason Street  
Memphis, Tennessee

**Officiants**

**The Right Reverend Chandler David Owens**  
Presiding Officer and Chief Officiant

**The Right Reverend Cleveland Landis Anderson, Jr.**  
Second Assistant Presiding Bishop

with

**The Right Reverend J. Neaul Haynes**  
**The Right Reverend Phillip Aquilla Brooks**  
**The Right Reverend Ozro Thurston Jones, Jr.**  
**The Right Reverend Charles Edward Blake**  
**The Right Reverend Levi Willis, Sr.**  
**The Right Reverend Roy L. H. Winbush**  
**The Right Reverend LeRoy Anderson**  
**The Right Reverend Ithiel Clemmons**  
**The Right Reverend Gilbert Earl Patterson**



# The Obituary

When describing the Church Of God In Christ to others, we often refer to the powerful messages and messengers of the church, or perhaps the melodious songs of praise that resound within the walls of our edifices in this nation and throughout the world.

Some may tell of the great and rich heritage we enjoy, or maybe our participation in ministries to help uplift the downtrodden. While these are all good representations of our church, to get a true picture of who and what we are, we must look at the people who comprise this body of believers in Jesus Christ.

From the youngest to the eldest, God has placed in each member of this body a uniqueness that is peculiar to this membership alone. And then there are some who are members of this body who surpass that uniqueness and are possessors of an even greater uniqueness.

When thinking on these servants of greatness, we think of one LOUIS HENRY FORD who was born in Clarksdale, Mississippi, May 23, 1914.

Born in seeming obscurity, no one knew the tremendous mission that God had planned for his life. He began this mission after having completed his formal training at Saints College in Lexington, Mississippi.

It was in 1926, that he committed his life to Christ and shortly thereafter received his call to ministry. Having been led of the Lord to go to Chicago in 1933, it was there that he was ordained by the late Bishop William Roberts, Prelate of Illinois. As his ministry grew, he and those he served as shepherd, established the Saint Paul Church Of God In Christ. His service to this one congregation extended to more than sixty years.

This servant of God was a true son of the church. He spent his life freely giving of his time and energy to the work of the Lord. While serving at Saint Paul, he also gave of his time to the national church. This service began with his first national appointment, in 1945, as Director of Public Relations. Additionally, he served as Chairman of the National Founder's Day Program and the Golden Jubilee Anniversary; Vice-President of the National Publishing Board and as a member of the National Executive Committee and since 1968, a member of the General Board. In 1972, he was elected as the First Assistant Presiding Bishop. His service record continued as Overseer, or Bishop, of over thirty jurisdictions.

After the demise of Presiding Bishop J. O. Patterson, Sr., in 1989, Bishop Ford became Presiding Bishop of the church. This elevation came about through his election by the General Assembly in its session on April 5, 1990, making him the spiritual and titular head of the more than four million congregants of the church.

Under his administration, the church witnessed tremendous growth. His achievements include the remodeling and refurbishing of Mason Temple, the national headquarters for the Church Of God In Christ; remodeling and upgrading of the Saints Academy campus in Lexington, Mississippi; the building of the Deborah Mason Patterson Multipurpose Building which houses an 1,100-seat auditorium, 500-seat cafeteria plus guest suites and other amenities on the campus of Saints Academy.



Other projects include the Mother Mattie McGlothen Home of Love and Hope Shelter for the homeless, and the Saints Haven senior citizens home—both in Memphis, Tennessee. He had also begun plans to build a dormitory at the C. H. Mason Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia.

Among the highlights of his administration were his influence in getting the Honourable William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States of America, to visit our Annual Holy Convocation in 1993, and the President's invitation to him in January of this year to be his overnight guest in the White House.

He was confidant and advisor to many great leaders, including Presidents Harry S. Truman, Lyndon B. Johnson; Mayors Richard Daley, Sr., Jane Byrne, Harold Washington and Richard Daley, Jr. of Chicago, and Mayors Richard Hackett, Willie Herenton and William Ingram of Memphis. Among the Governors he befriended were Governors Clements and McWherter of Tennessee. In the halls of the Congress of the United States, he befriended great men and women as Ralph Metcalfe, Gus Savage, Harold Ford, Cardiss Collins, Charles Percy and Carol Moseley Braun.

He was a man who walked with the great but never lost the common touch. Attestation to this fact is realized in his friendships with Paul Robeson, Lena Horne, Joe Louis, Jackie Robinson, John H. Johnson, Maceo Walker, Ethel Waters and other notables.

Among the religious leaders he enjoyed fellowship with were Dr. J. H. Jackson, Dr. Fred Lofton, Dr. William Holmes Border, Reverend C. L. Franklin, Dr. T. H. Jemison, Reverend Jesse Jackson, Reverend Clay Evans, Bishop W. H. Graves, Cardinal Bernadin, Bishop Harold I. Williams, Bishop Smallwood E. Williams and many others.

He received numerous awards and citations in his lifetime, however, among those he treasured most was when the Mayor of Chicago named October 25, 1990, as "Louis Henry Ford Day in Chicago"; the Charles Harrison Mason Award, the Church Federation of Chicago Award and the Most Outstanding Alumnus Award by Saints College. He has been recognized by state legislatures and cities across America. Additionally, Bishop Ford, for many years, has been cited by *Ebony* magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential Blacks in America.

The final chapter in the Book of Life for Bishop Louis Henry Ford has been written. He was an energetic leader who was devoted to God. This devotion was shown through his love for his church and his many efforts to his fellowman. He was in everyway the epitome of a humanitarian. The service he rendered while here in earth shall never be forgotten, but will remain forever a memorial to a life well lived.

Among those who shall have fond and loving memories of this great man are his wife, Margaret Ford; his son and daughter-in-law, Charles Harrison Mason Ford and Marlene; his daughter, Janet Oliver Hill, and her husband, Zedie; three sisters, Laura, Bea and Rosie; ten grandchildren and seven great grandchildren; nieces; nephews; many other relatives and friends including the Saint Paul Church Of God In Christ Family, the Illinois First Jurisdiction and the Church Of God In Christ Family around the world.



# Order of Homegoing Celebration

Wednesday, April 5, 1995

11:00 A.M.

The Right Reverend Roy L. H. Winbush, *Presiding*

+ Where indicated, please stand.

## ORGAN PRELUDE

THE OPENING SENTENCES ..... The Right Reverend Leroy Anderson  
General Board Member  
Buffalo, New York

## + THE PROCESSIONAL

The Acolytes  
The Adjutant General

~

The Presiding Officer  
The Second Assistant Presiding Bishop  
The General Board  
The General Officers  
The Board of Bishops  
The Denominational Leaders

~

The Family

## THE SEALING OF THE BIER

THE HYMN OF COMFORT ..... The Right Reverend H. Jenkins Bell  
*"Just A Little While"*  
Adjutant General  
Nashville, Tennessee

+ THE INVOCATION ..... The Right Reverend Charles Edward Blake  
General Board Member  
Los Angeles, California

THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE ..... The Right Reverend Ozro Thurston Jones, Jr.  
Psalm 90  
General Board Member  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

THE CHORAL RESPONSE ..... *"In Jesus I'm Safe Evermore"*

THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE ..... The Right Reverend Levi Willis  
I Corinthians 15:50-58  
General Board Member  
Norfolk, Virginia



**THE STATEMENT OF FAITH . . . . .The Right Reverend Phillip Aquilla Brooks**  
General Board Member  
Detroit, Michigan

We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible written Word of God.

We believe that there is One God: Eternally existent in Three Persons; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

We believe in the blessed Hope, which is the rapture of the Church of God, which is in Christ, at His return.

We believe that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance, faith in the precious Blood of Jesus Christ and the gospel according to Romans 10:9, 10.

We believe that regeneration by the Holy Ghost is absolutely essential for personal salvation.

We believe that the redemptive work of Christ on the Cross provides healing for the human body in answer to "believing" prayer.

We believe that the Baptism in the Holy Ghost, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it.

We believe in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling, the Christian is enabled to live a holy and separated life in this present world. Amen.

**THE ANTHEM . . . . .C. H. Mason Memorial Choir**

**THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF  
RELIGIOUS LEADERS . . . . .The Right Reverend Gilbert Earl Patterson**  
General Board Member  
Memphis, Tennessee

**THE SELECTION . . . . .C. H. Mason Memorial Choir**

**TRIBUTES . . . . .The Right Reverend W. L. Porter**  
Special Assistant to the Presiding Bishop  
Memphis, Tennessee

**The Right Reverend Ithiel Clemmons**  
General Board Member  
Hollis, New York

**Mother Emma Crouch**  
General Supervisor  
Department of Women

**THE SELECTION . . . . .C. H. Mason Memorial Choir**



RESOLUTIONS

General Assembly .....The Right Reverend Frank Ellis  
Chairman

Board of Bishops .....The Right Reverend J. Howard Sherman  
Chairman

General Church .....The Right Reverend W. W. Hamilton  
General Secretary

THE GENERAL BOARD'S RESOLUTION

AND INTRODUCTION OF

THE PRESIDING OFFICER .....The Right Reverend J. Neaul Haynes  
Secretary - General Board  
Dallas, Texas

THE SERMONIC HYMN .....Choir and Congregation  
*"Amazing Grace"*

THE EULOGY .....The Right Reverend Chandler David Owens  
Presiding Officer  
Atlanta, Georgia

THE PRAYER OF COMFORT .....The Right Reverend DeWitt A. Burton  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

+ THE RECESSIONAL

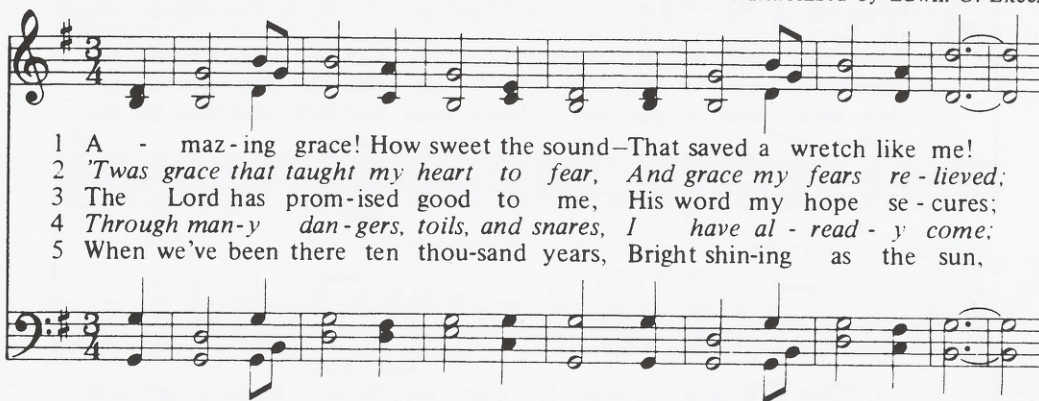


# Amazing Grace

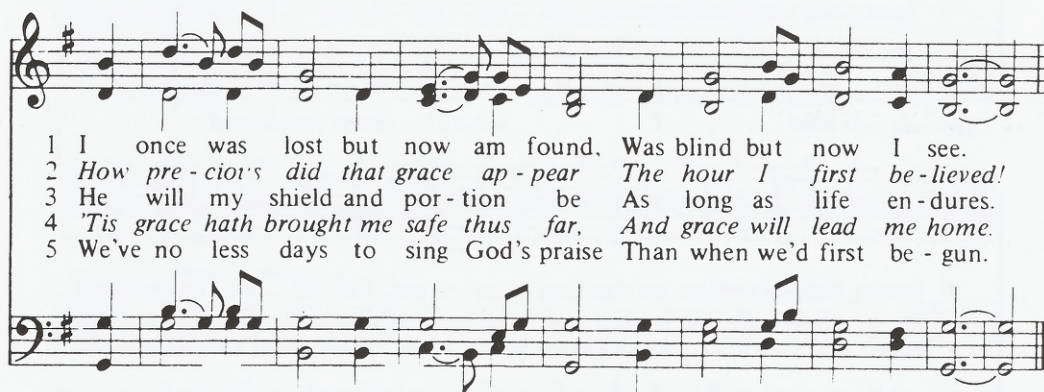
For by grace are ye saved through faith...  
Ephesians 2:8

John Newton  
John P. Rees, stanza 5

American Melody  
Carrell and Clayton's *Virginia Harmony*  
Harmonized by Edwin O. Excell



1 A - maz-ing grace! How sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re-lieved;  
3 The Lord has prom-ised good to me, His word my hope se-cures;  
4 Through man-y dan-gers, toils, and snares, I have al-read-y come;  
5 When we've been there ten thou-sand years, Bright shin-ing as the sun,



1 I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.  
2 How pre-cious did that grace ap-pear The hour I first be-lieved!  
3 He will my shield and por-tion be As long as life en-dures.  
4 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.  
5 We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first be-gun.



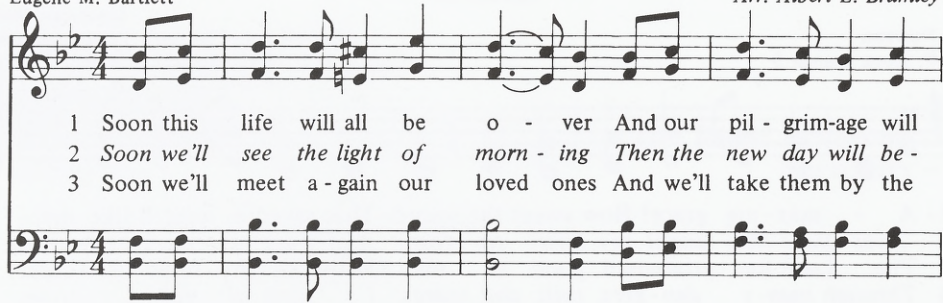


# Just a Little While

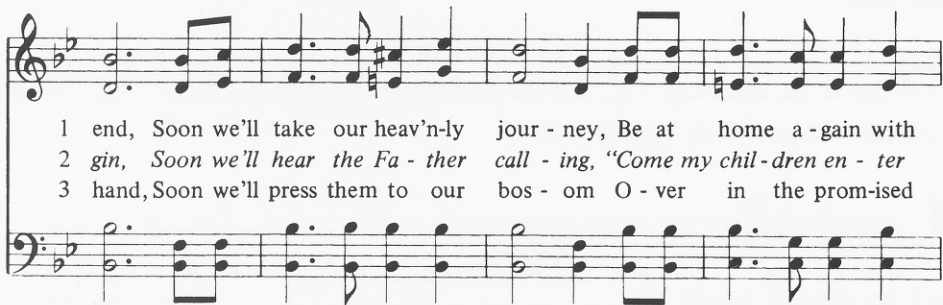
*And, behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me.*  
Revelation 22:12

Eugene M. Bartlett

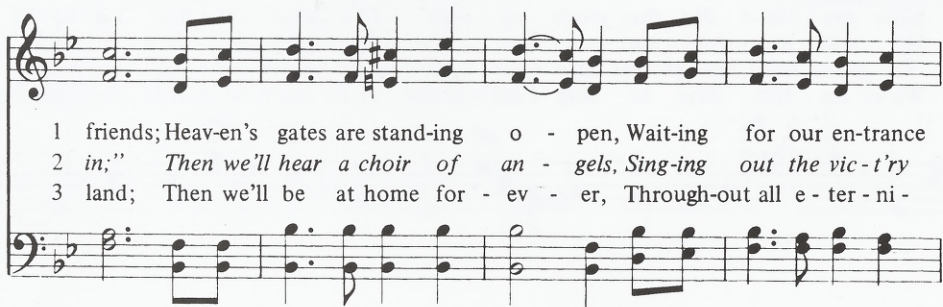
Eugene M. Bartlett  
*Arr. Albert E. Brumley*



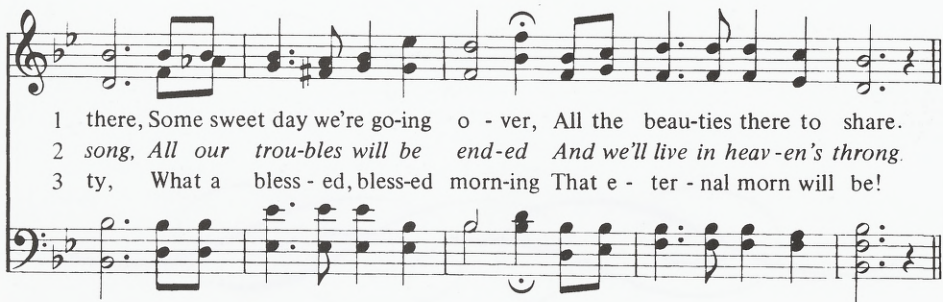
1 Soon this life will all be o - ver And our pil - grim-age will  
2 Soon we'll see the light of morn - ing Then the new day will be -  
3 Soon we'll meet a - gain our loved ones And we'll take them by the



1 end, Soon we'll take our heav'n-ly jour - ney, Be at home a - gain with  
2 gin, Soon we'll hear the Fa - ther call - ing, "Come my chil - dren en - ter  
3 hand, Soon we'll press them to our bos - om O - ver in the prom-ised

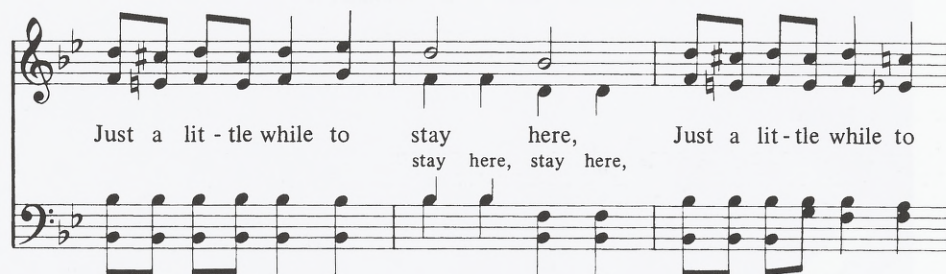


1 friends; Heav-en's gates are stand-ing o - pen, Wait-ing for our en-trance  
2 in;" Then we'll hear a choir of an - gels, Sing-ing out the vic - t'ry  
3 land; Then we'll be at home for - ev - er, Through-out all e - ter - ni -

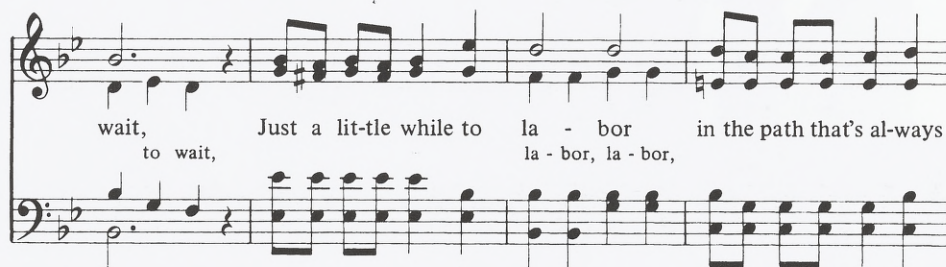


1 there, Some sweet day we're go-ing o - ver, All the beau-ties there to share.  
2 song, All our trou-bles will be end-ed And we'll live in heav-en's throng.  
3 ty, What a bless - ed, bless-ed morn-ing That e - ter - nal morn will be!

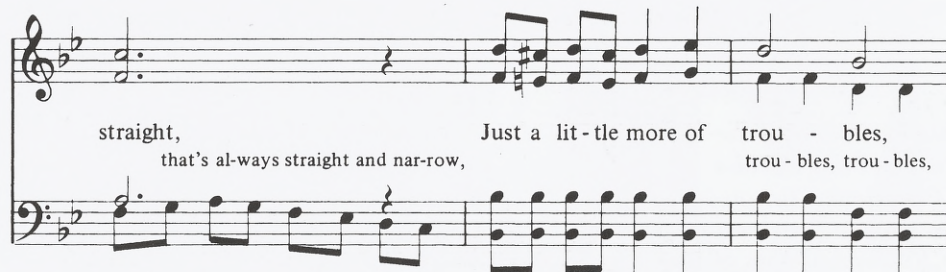




Just a lit - tle while to stay here, Just a lit - tle while to  
stay here, stay here,



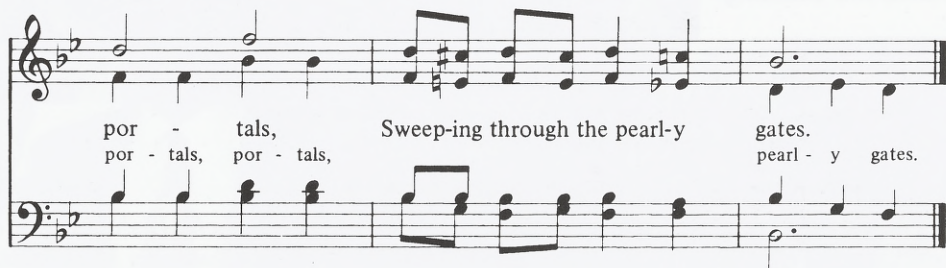
wait, Just a lit - tle while to la - bor in the path that's al - ways  
to wait, la - bor, la - bor,



straight, Just a lit - tle more of trou - bles,  
that's al - ways straight and nar - row, trou - bles, trou - bles,



In this low and sin - ful state, Then we'll en - ter Heav - en's  
sin - ful state,



por - tals, Sweep - ing through the pearl - y gates.  
por - tals, por - tals, pearl - y gates.



# "Mr. Church Of Go

...A name given to Bishop Ford by his frien



*Above: During his last visit to the White House, Bishop Ford speaks with President Clinton.*

*Observers are Wilbur Peer and Tom Nash, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Elder A. Z. Hall, Jr. and Carrol Willis, Democratic Party Leader.*



*Right: Bishop Ford, with a smile of approval, listens to his friend and First Assistant Presiding Bishop C. D. Owens at Saints College during construction of the Deborah Mason Patterson Building.*



*Left: Bishop Ford, designated Saints College's Most Distinguished Alumnus, greets a group of tomorrow's leaders.*



# Of God In Christ"

his friend, the Late Bishop Patterson, Sr.



*Left: Two great leaders meet to share ideas, wisdom and seek solutions—Dr. W. W. Herenton, Mayor of Memphis with Bishop Ford.*



*Above: Two great supporters of education tour Saints College—Mother Emma Crouch, National Supervisor of Women's Department, and Bishop Ford.*



*Left: Presiding Bishop L. H. Ford joins President and Mrs. Clinton at the White House for the President's Annual Christmas Reception and Dinner.*



## Honorary Pallbearers

The Right Reverend Chandler David Owens  
Presiding Officer

The Right Reverend Cleveland Landis Anderson, Jr.  
Second Assistant Presiding Bishop

The Right Reverend J. Neaul Haynes

The Right Reverend Phillip Aquilla Brooks

The Right Reverend Ozro Thurston Jones, Jr.

The Right Reverend Charles Edward Blake

The Right Reverend Levi Willis, Sr.

The Right Reverend Roy L. H. Winbush

The Right Reverend LeRoy Anderson

The Right Reverend Ithiel Clemmons

The Right Reverend Gilbert Earl Patterson



## **Active Pallbearers**

Adjutant Overseers

## **Flower Bearers**

National Adjutant Sisters

## **Interment**

**Oakwood Cemetery**

Chicago, Illinois

## **Acknowledgement**

The family of the late  
**Bishop Louis Henry Ford**  
wishes to express their thanks for  
every act of kindness expressed  
during this their time of loss.

Final arrangements in Chicago entrusted to:

**Leake & Sons Funeral Home**

7838 South Cottage Grove Avenue

Chicago, Illinois

Arrangements in Memphis by:

**J. O. Patterson Mortuary**

Assisted by

**N. J. Ford & Son Funeral Parlor and R. S. Lewis & Sons Funeral Home**





## NOT GOODBYE . . . JUST GOODNIGHT

*Having enjoyed the love of family and friends at his bedside on Friday, March 31, 1995, Bishop Ford looked at each of them and said, "I Love All Of You." He then looked away to the immortal portals of heaven and fell asleep in the arms of Jesus. That message, was not to those alone; rather, it was his benedictory to everyone, for his heart was filled with love for all.*



